

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in application:

1. (Currently Amended) A molded plastic bucket and separate lid comprising, in combination:

a bucket having an open top, a generally inwardly tapered cylindrical side wall, and a bottom wall, said open top including a circumferential rim, said bottom wall including an outside surface with a first second, at least partially circumferential, depending rib and a second first at least partially circumferential depending rib radially spaced outwardly from the first rib and also positioned outwardly from the cylindrical side wall at the juncture thereof with the bottom wall, said first rib including an inside face, said first and second ribs defining a circumferential groove therebetween having a first width; and

a separate lid having a top surface and a bottom surface, said lid further including a circumferential element in the bottom surface compatible with the rim of the bucket for attaching the lid to the bucket and thereby enclosing the bucket, said lid further including on the top surface a first circumferential annular lid rib having an outside surface and dimensioned to fit within the circumferential groove of the bucket bottom wall whereby a bucket may be stacked and held upon the lid; and

said first rib having said inside face fitted against the outside surface of said annular lid rib when said lid and bucket are in assembled combination with said lid fitted onto said bucket.

2. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1 wherein the bottom wall of the bucket has a generally uniform thickness.

3. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1 wherein the bottom wall includes at least one supplemental annular groove having a radius less than the radius of the first rib.

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4. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein the lid includes at least one additional, at least partially circumferential, rib having a radius less than the radius of the first circumferential annular lid rib, said additional rib dimensioned to engage and support the bottom wall of a bucket stacked on said lid.

5. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein the ~~second~~ first rib of the bucket bottom wall has an outer radius greater than the outermost radius of the bucket side wall at the juncture thereof with the bottom wall and less than the maximum radius of said lid and bucket.

6. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 3 wherein the supplemental annular groove includes an inner wall has having a radius less than the radius of the bucket side wall at the juncture thereof with the bottom wall.

7. (Currently Amended) A combination container and separate lid comprising:

(a) a molded plastic container having a lateral side wall, a bottom side wall, and a peripheral bottom, outside, downwardly depending rim extension of the lateral side wall projecting below the bottom wall, said rim extension having a bottom pattern cross sectional profile, said container further including an open top surrounded by a top rim configured with a top pattern profile;

(b) a separate molded plastic lid support assembly fitted on the top rim of the container, said lid support assembly including an inwardly radially extending, uninterrupted, peripheral attachment rib spaced inwardly from the lateral side wall to define a lid attachment member; and

(c) a separate molded plastic lid having a shape and pattern to completely cover the open top and attach to the plastic lid support assembly, said plastic lid including a peripheral lateral side with a lateral outside circumferential groove, said lateral outside circumferential groove of said lid engageable with the peripheral attachment rib of the plastic lid support assembly; and

(d) said container bottom rim extension sized to fit over and nest on the top of

a container and lid combination stacked thereunder.

8. (Cancelled) The combination of claim 7 wherein the lid support assembly is integrally molded on the top rim of the container.

9. (Cancelled) The combination of claim 7 wherein the molded lid support assembly comprises a separately molded ring member fitted onto the container top rim.

10. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 7 wherein the container and lid are generally cylindrical about a vertical longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 7 wherein the bottom rim extension comprises a continuous closed ring element.

12. (Presently Amended) The combination of claim 8 wherein the lid support assembly comprises an annular wall spaced inwardly from the lateral side wall of the container, said annular wall connected to the lateral side wall by a generally radially inwardly extending wall from the lateral side wall of the container.

13. (Presently Amended) The combination of claim 9 wherein the lid support assembly comprises a ring member having a circumferential groove fitted over and engaging the lateral side wall of the container.

14. (New) A combination container and separate lid comprising:

(a) a molded plastic container having a lateral side wall, a bottom side wall, and a peripheral bottom, outside, downwardly depending rim extension of the lateral side wall projecting below the bottom wall, said rim extension having a bottom pattern cross sectional profile, said container further including an open top surrounded by a top rim configured with a top pattern cross sectional profile;

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(b) an integral molded plastic lid support assembly fitted on the top rim of the container, said lid support assembly including an inwardly radially extending, uninterrupted, peripheral attachment rib spaced inwardly from the container lateral side wall by a radially inwardly extending wall to define a lid attachment member; and

(c) a separate molded plastic lid having a shape and pattern to cover the open top and said lid to the plastic lid support assembly, said plastic lid including a peripheral lateral side with a lateral outside circumferential groove, said lateral outside circumferential groove of said lid engageable with the peripheral attachment rib of the plastic lid support assembly; and

(d) said container bottom rim extension sized to fit over and nest on the top of a container and lid combination stacked thereunder.

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